






















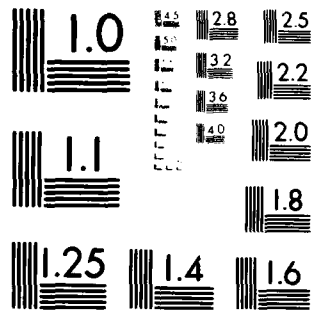


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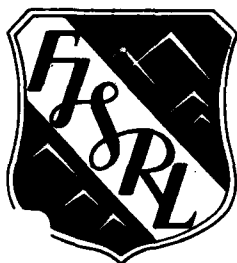
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**FRANK J. SEILER RESEARCH LABORATORY**

**FJSRL TECHNICAL REPORT 81-0009**

**AUGUST 1981**

**A SUMMARY REPORT ON THE  
SOLUBILITY OF DEPLETED  
U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> IN SIMULATED LUNG  
FLUID, RINGER'S SOLUTION  
AND RINGER'S LACTATE**

**WILLIAM D. BUTLER**

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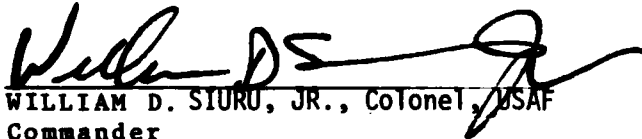
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|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. REPORT NUMBER<br>FJSRL-TR-81-0009  | 2. GOVT ACCESSION NO.<br>ADA114 729 | 3. RECIPIENT'S CATALOG NUMBER   |
| 4. TITLE (and Subtitle)<br>A Summary Report on the Solubility of Depleted $U_{308}$ in Simulated Lung Fluid, Ringer's Solution, and Ringer's Lactate  |                                     | 5. TYPE OF REPORT & PERIOD COVERED<br>Summary rept.                       |
|   |                                     | 6. PERFORMING ORG. REPORT NUMBER  |
| 7. AUTHOR(s)<br>William D. Butler   |                                     | 8. CONTRACT OR GRANT NUMBER(s)  |
| 9. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS<br>Faculty Research Division<br>USAF Academy, CO 80840  |                                     | 10. PROGRAM ELEMENT, PROJECT, TASK AREA & WORK UNIT NUMBERS<br>2303-F1-13 |
| 11. CONTROLLING OFFICE NAME AND ADDRESS<br>Frank J. Seiler Research Laboratory (AFSC)<br>USAF Academy, CO 80840   |                                     | 12. REPORT DATE<br>August 1981  |
|   |                                     | 13. NUMBER OF PAGES<br>15   |
| 14. MONITORING AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS (if different from Controlling Office)   |                                     | 15. SECURITY CLASS. (of this report)<br>Unclassified                      |
|   |                                     | 15a. DECLASSIFICATION/DOWNGRADING SCHEDULE                                |
| 16. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of this Report)<br><br>Approved for public release; distribution unlimited  |                                     |   |
| 17. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of the abstract entered in Block 20, if different from Report)  |                                     |   |
| 18. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES   |                                     |   |
| 19. KEY WORDS (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number)<br>Depleted $U_{308}$ (DU) Ringer's ion<br>Solubility of Heavy Metals Ringer's Lactate<br>Triuranium Octaoxide ( $U_{308}$ )<br>Simulated Lung Fluid   |                                     |   |
| 20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number)<br>Arguments have arisen over the solubility of Depleted $U_{308}$ in lung and other interstitial fluids. Knowing that Depleted $U_{308}$ was insoluble in water, this study was undertaken to determine the relative solubilities, if any, in biological fluids. Results show very low solubility (less than 12%) for the biological fluids studied. |                                     |   |

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FJSRL-TR-81-0009

A SUMMARY REPORT ON THE SOLUBILITY OF  
DEPLETED  $U_3O_8$  IN SIMULATED LUNG FLUID  
RINGER'S SOLUTION, AND RINGER'S LACTATE

By

Captain William D. Butler

■ AUGUST 1981

Department of Biology, USAF Academy, CO 80840

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## INTRODUCTION

Recent Air Force involvement with depleted  $U_3O_8$  (tri-uranium octaoxide as an armor penetrator munition has resulted in questions being raised as to the possible aerosol hazards around an A-10 crash site or a depleted  $U_3O_8$  storage explosion area. Solubility studies using simulated lung fluid have been carried out on a number of uranium compounds exhibiting aerosol properties. Simulants of lung interstitial fluid have been used as solvents in estimating the dissolution of inhaled radioactive compounds in previous studies but have been looked at only sparingly with regard to the solubility of heavy metals, particularly depleted  $U_3O_8$ . A few reports have been circulated (some published and some not) discussing heavy metal solubility. Questions by colleagues have been raised concerning the actual solubility of depleted  $U_3O_8$  and the credibility of some of the previous reports. Since depleted  $U_3O_8$  is insoluble in hot or cold water (1,7), it is the purpose of this investigation to support or refute previous determinations of the relative solubility of depleted  $U_3O_8$  in simulated lung fluids, and to further examine depleted  $U_3O_8$  solubility in other physiological fluids.

## METHODS AND MATERIALS

### Composition of Simulated Lung Fluid

The simulated lung fluid used was developed from a model of interstitial fluid as reported by Diem (2), and Morrow (4). In this study, protein was omitted from the fluid since investigations indicated that the presence of small amounts of protein (0.4% w/v) rendered the fluid almost unfilterable (1). Acetate

was substituted for all organic acid anions. All solutes were added to glass distilled water. Table 1 gives the composition of the lung simulant fluid.

#### Other Physiological Fluids

Ringer's solution and Ringer's Lactate solution were obtained already mixed from Travenol Laboratories, Inc., Deerfield, IL 60015. The solutions were prepackaged and sterile upon receipt. Table 2 gives the compositions of these two solutions.

TABLE 1 COMPOSITION OF SIMULATED LUNG FLUID (5)

(Order of Ingredients)

| <u>COMPOUND</u>                    | <u>CHEMICAL FORMULA</u>                                      | <u>CONCENTRATION</u><br>(mg/ml of H <sub>2</sub> O) |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
| Magnesium Chloride Hexahydrate     | MgCl <sub>2</sub> 6H <sub>2</sub> O                          | 203.3   |
| Sodium Chloride                    | NaCl   | 6019.3  |
| Potassium Chloride                 | KCl  | 298.2   |
| Sodium Sulfate Dibasic (anhydrous) | Na <sub>2</sub> HSO <sub>4</sub>                             | 142.0   |
| Sodium Sulfate (anhydrous)         | Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>                              | 71.0  |
| Calcium Chloride Dihydrate         | CaCl <sub>2</sub> 2H <sub>2</sub> O                          | 367.6   |
| Sodium Acetate Trihydrate          | NaCH <sub>3</sub> COO 3H <sub>2</sub> O                      | 952.6   |
| Sodium Bicarbonate                 | NaHCO <sub>3</sub>   | 2604.3  |
| Sodium Citrate                     | Na <sub>3</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> O <sub>7</sub> | 9   |

NOTE: Be extremely careful when adding calcium chloride dihydrate to the solution. Ca++ is notorious for precipitating out. Solute must be added very slowly and at room temperature.

TABLE 2 OTHER PHYSIOLOGICAL FLUIDS

| <u>COMPOUND</u>                                       | <u>CHEMICAL FORMULA</u>                        | <u>CONCENTRATION<br/>(mg/100ml H<sub>2</sub>O)</u> |
|---|--|--|
| <u>Ringer's Solution:</u>                             |  |  |
| Sodium Chloride                                       | NaCl   | 860  |
| Potassium Chloride                                    | KCl  | 30   |
| Calcium Chloride                                      | CaCl <sub>2</sub>                              | 33   |
| <u>Ringer's Lactate Solution:</u>                     |  |  |
| Sodium Chloride                                       | NaCl   | 600  |
| Sodium Lactate  | NaC <sub>3</sub> H <sub>5</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 310  |
| Potassium Chloride                                    | KCl  | 30   |
| Calcium Chloride                                      | CaCl <sub>2</sub>                              | 20   |
| <u>Particle Size of Depleted Triuranium Octaoxide</u> |  |  |

At the beginning of the investigation, the uranium chosen for the study was 99% pure depleted U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>. This heavy metal is an olive green powder obtained from the Alfa Division of Ventron Corporation in Danvers, MA. Plate I is a scanning electron photomicrograph of depleted U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>, and shows the relative size and average distribution of the particles before the solubility tests. Note that the clumping of the particles is primarily due to static electricity when placed on the viewing stub.

#### Solubility Studies

Solubility determinations were made via strict analytical chemistry techniques, based on total percent weight of the solute. Total fluid volume of the three test solutions was also closely controlled (6). Each test solution was maintained in an enclosed, thermostatically controlled beaker atop a Corning PC

# PLATE I



Depleted Uranium Powder Sample Before Addition To Test Solutions

351 hot plate-stirrer. The desired temperature was to approximate that of higher reptiles' and mammals' body core temperatures. Therefore, the test solutions were maintained between 27 and 39 degrees centigrade. Table 3 shows the body core temperatures for the two Classes of animals discussed above.

TABLE 3 BODY CORE TEMPERATURES (3)

| <u>CLASS/EXAMPLE</u>    | <u>TEMPERATURE (CENTIGRADE)</u> |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| REPTILIA - Crocodilians | 26-37                           |
| - Turtles               | 19.8 $\pm$ 0.2                  |
| MAMMALIA - Mice         | 36.8                            |
| - Rats                  | 36.9                            |
| - Rabbits               | 38.8                            |

| <u>CLASS/EXAMPLE</u> | <u>TEMPERATURE (CENTIGRADE)</u> |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| - Sheep              | 39                              |
| - Pigs               | 38.4                            |
| - Cows               | 38                              |
| - Cats               | 38                              |
| - Dogs               | 38.4                            |
| - Rhesus Monkeys     | 37.3                            |

Each solubility experiment lasted for four days. For each determination, the following procedures were performed:

(a) A known amount of depleted  $U_3O_8$  powder was added to each of the three test solutions of 250 ml. Each solution contained two drops of dispersing agent (sodium lauryl sulfate) (1).

(b) The depleted  $U_3O_8$  powder was circulated in each test solution by a magnetic stirrer. To maintain dispersion of the solute, air was also bubbled into each solution at the rate of approximately 2 ml/min through a glass pipette. This was done during the entire test period.

This modified dispersion technique (1) was adopted in order to disperse any clumped particles and to minimize the buildup of aggregates. Air injection also served to aid mixing the solute in the beaker, to increase the solute surface area for maximum exposure to each test solution, and, to simulate the oxidizing effects within the lung.

(c) At the end of the four day test period, each solution containing the depleted  $U_3O_8$  solute was carefully vacuum filtered through a 0.45 micron type HA millipore filter. Rubber policeman as well as washes containing extra solutions of lung

simulant, Ringer's, and Ringer's Lactate were used to insure complete removal of the test material from the beakers, thermometers, and dispersion pipettes.

(b) Each millipore test filter containing depleted  $U_3O_8$  was then transferred to a glass drying dish and placed in a 100 degree fahrenheit oven for 24 hours. Upon completion of the drying period, each test filter was weighed to four significant figures on an Ainsworth 21 N balance. Attachments 1-3 show the analytical calculations of the depleted  $U_3O_8$  weights for each of the three test solutions.

#### RESULTS

The results that were obtained from this study are seen in Attachments 1-3. The percentage of the depleted  $U_3O_8$  in the test solutions were all less than 12%. Also, Plates II, III, and IV show particle size of the depleted  $U_3O_8$  solute after the test runs in lung simulant, Ringer's, and Ringer's Lactate respectively. There appears to be no difference in the average particle size. It should be noted that the actual study period may or may not be sufficient to categorize the depleted  $U_3O_8$  solute investigated into a solubility class used by the Task Group on Lung Dynamics from the International Commission on Radiological Protection (1). Their classification scheme adopted is:

(a) Soluble - compounds with a solubility half life of less than one to ten days inclusive.

(b) Moderately Soluble - compounds with an estimated solubility half life of greater than 10 to 100 days inclusive.

(c) Relatively Insoluble - compounds with an estimated solubility half life of greater than 100 days.



## DISCUSSION

Depleted  $U_3O_8$  is only one component of a complex mixture of radioactive waste material resulting from the testing of depleted uranium munitions. These results, therefore, relate only to the  $U_3O_8$  portion of the complex mixture. The results of the study of this compound in various solutions are discussed below.

### Lung Simulant

This study shows direct support for those who purport the relative low solubility of depleted  $U_3O_8$ , particularly the work done by Cooke and Holt. Since this investigation used pure depleted  $U_3O_8$  powder (average size was approximately one to ten microns (Plate I)), no comment can be made as to the dependence of solubility versus particle size. In the four day study, the solubility of depleted  $U_3O_8$  in simulated lung fluid was approximately 11%. Interpolations as to what solubility classification this would be in accordance with the ICRP Task Group leans toward the relatively insoluble class of compounds. The study of this compound in lung simulant also approximates the solubility conclusions of Cooke and Holt even though their study was over 30 days. Though the lung simulant composition used in this experiment was different from that of Cooke and Holt, the pH change paralleled their study. In this study, the initial pH was 7.2 but rose during the four day period to about 8.7. This was most likely attributable to carbonate complex formation due to the modified aeration technique used.

### Ringer's and Ringer's Lactate

Experimental results from Attachments 2 and 3 show the solubility of depleted  $U_3O_8$  in Ringer's and Ringer's Lactate to be

approximately 9.4% and 8.5% respectively. Therefore, these test solutions, like the lung simulant, show relatively low solubility. The initial pH's for Ringer's and Ringer's Lactate were 4.6 and 6.5. As with the lung simulant, both pH's rose to 6.0 and 8.1 at the end of four days, attributing this again to the aeration technique.

At the end of their discussion, Cooke and Holt stated:  
It is accepted that particle size of some powders studied were relatively large when compared with those normally associated with the respirable range size. It may be, therefore, that the fractional dissolution observed in some of the studies was lower than that of much smaller respirable size particles of the same material.

It is now known that the depleted  $U_3O_8$  powder used in this experiment, Plates I-IV, was definitely in the respirable range. Therefore, the solubility findings of 11%, 9.4%, and 8.5% directly correlates with the above statement for all solutions studied.

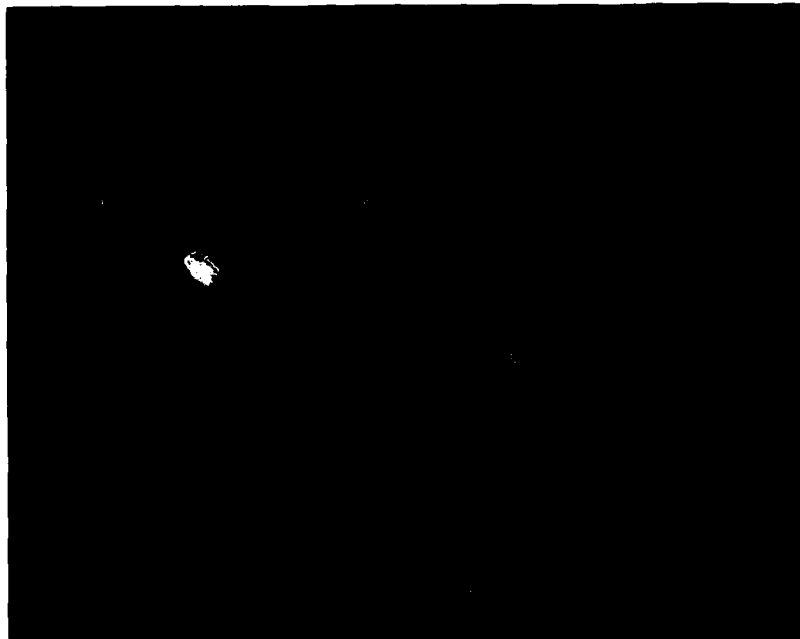
#### CONCLUSIONS

Even though this study on the solubility of depleted  $U_3O_8$  is relatively short, it directly supports and supplements the work done by Cooke and Holt. It also lends support for the work done by Steckel and West in 1966, although like Cooke's and Holt's research, it does not go into the study of thermal parameters of the heavy metals. Experimental results showed the relatively low solubility of depleted  $U_3O_8$  in the three test solutions: 11% for lung simulant, 9.4% for Ringer's and 8.5% for Ringer's Lactate. Also, from the observation of Plates I-IV, there was negligible difference in the average particle size or effects on the particles themselves as observed under the scanning electron mic-

roscope.

It is hoped that this study will have helped to alleviate most of the debate over the relative solubility of depleted  $U_3O_8$ . Even though the results were obtained at room temperature, it would be hoped that any further solubility studies would investigate the thermal parameters of this heavy metal.

PLATE II



Depleted Uranium Solute From Lung Simulant

PLATE III



Depleted Uranium Solute From Ringer's Solution

PLATE IV



Depleted Uranium Solute From Ringer's Lactate

Attachment 1

LUNG SIMULANT TEST SOLUTION

Experimental Start Time - 0800, 5 Nov 1980

Experimental Stop Time - 1000, 9 Nov 1980

| <u>SPECIMEN</u>  | <u>WEIGHT(milligrams)</u> |
|--|---------------------------|
| Weighing Paper   | 298.60                    |
| Paper + Depeted $U_3O_8$                                     | 345.71                    |
| Paper after Depleted $U_3O_8$ Added to Soln                  | 298.66                    |
| Depleted $U_3O_8$ Added                                      | 47.05                     |
| Weight of Filter Paper                                       | 73.80                     |
| Weight of Dried Filter Paper<br>and Depleted $U_3O_8$ Solute | 115.55                    |
| Depleted $U_3O_8$ Solute                                     | 41.75                     |
| 1 - % Depleted $U_3O_8$ from Filtration                      | <u>11.26</u>              |
| Weight of Kimax 400ml Beaker (BEFORE)                        | 112.84780                 |
| Dried Beaker Weight (AFTER)                                  | 112.84786                 |
| 2 - % Depleted $U_3O_8$ Residue                              | <u>0.25</u>               |
| Therefore, Actual Percent Depleted $U_3O_8$<br>Solubility is | <u>11.01</u>              |

## Attachment 2

### RINGER'S TEST SOLUTION

Experimental Start Time - 0830, 5 Nov 1980

Experimental Stop Time - 1030, 9 Nov 1980

| <u>SPECIMEN</u>  | <u>WEIGHT(milligrams)</u> |
|--|---------------------------|
| Weighing Paper   | 295.78                    |
| Paper + Depleted $U_3O_8$                                    | 341.35                    |
| Paper after Depleted $U_3O_8$ Added to Soln                  | 295.80                    |
| Depleted $U_3O_8$ Added                                      | 45.55                     |
| Weight of Filter Paper                                       | 69.56                     |
| Weight of Dried Filter Paper<br>and Depleted $U_3O_8$ Solute | 110.70                    |
| Depleted $U_3O_8$ Solute                                     | 41.14                     |
| 1 - % Depleted $U_3O_8$ from Filtration                      | <u>9.68</u>               |
| Weight of Kimax 400ml Beaker (BEFORE)                        | 113.82384                 |
| Dried Beaker Weight (AFTER)                                  | 113.82395                 |
| 2 - % Depleted $U_3O_8$ Residue                              | <u>0.24</u>               |
| Therefore, Actual Percent Depleted $U_3O_8$<br>Solubility is | <u>9.44</u>               |

# Attachment 3

## RINGER'S LACTATE SOLUTION

Experimental Start Time - 0900, 5 Nov 1980

Experimental Stop Time - 1100, 9 Nov 1980

| <u>SPECIMEN</u>  | <u>WEIGHT(milligrams)</u> |
|--|---------------------------|
| Weighing Paper   | 295.80                    |
| Paper + Depleted $U_3O_8$                                    | 324.89                    |
| Paper after Depleted $U_3O_8$ Added to Soln                  | 295.81                    |
| Depleted $U_3O_8$ Added                                      | 29.08                     |
| Weight of Filter Paper                                       | 83.06                     |
| Weight of Dried Filter Paper<br>and Depleted $U_3O_8$        | 109.49                    |
| Depleted $U_3O_8$ Solute                                     | 26.43                     |
| 1 - % Depleted $U_3O_8$ from Filtration                      | <u>9.11</u>               |
| Weight of Kimax 400ml Beaker (BEFORE)                        | 112.34427                 |
| Dried Beaker Weight (AFTER)                                  | 112.34444                 |
| 2 - % Depleted $U_3O_8$ Residue                              | <u>0.585</u>              |
| Therefore, actual percent Depleted $U_3O_8$<br>Solubility is | <u>8.53</u>               |



#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to sincerely thank my civilian research technician, Mr. John M. Scupp for his excellent assistance in this solubility study.

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